

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 35-49, 56-81 are pending in the application, where claims 74-81 are withdrawn.

Claims 35, 41, 46, 56 and 73 are amended.

Claims 1-34, 50-55 and 82-110 are canceled.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 46 as having no remaining dependence. Applicant notes that claim 73, while not objected to by the Examiner, also shares the same informality.

Applicant amends claims 46 and 73 to address the informality.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 45, 47-49, 60, 61, and 65-71 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant amends independent claims 35 and 41 to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 45, and independent claim 56 with the subject matter of allowable claim 67. Applicant rewrites claims 47, 48, 60, 65, 68, 70 and 71 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 35, 41, 47, 48, 56 60, 65, 68, 70 and 71 are patentable over the applied references. Applicant further submits that claims 36-40, 42-44, 46, 49, 57-59, 61-64, 66, 69, 72 and 73 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 35, 41, 47, 48, 56 60, 65, 68, 70 or 71.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 35-40, 41-44, 56-59, 72, 73, and 82-86 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Lambert (U.S. Patent No. 6,288,815).

As noted above, Applicant amends independent claims 35 and 41 to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 45, and independent claim 56 with the subject matter of allowable claim 67.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 35, 41, and 56 are patentable over the applied references. Applicant further submits that claims 36-40, 42-44, 57-59, 72 and 73 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 35, 41 or 56.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 64 and 92 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambert, claims 62, 89, and 90 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambert in view of Shibatani (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,684), and claims 63 and 91 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambert in view of Kanayama et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0095213).

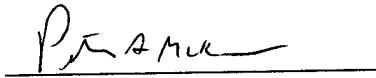
As noted above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 62-64 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 56.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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